

are talking about a very minimal expense to the MUD situation and there is no fiscal impact to any other part of the state at all. The reason why the E clause has been added is because, I don't know if you remember or not, but about a month ago, month and a half ago, Governor Kerrey along with the Mayor of Omaha, Mike Boyle, announced that the City of Omaha through the Department of Energy, the Nebraska Department of Energy, through the federal authorities, received \$400,000 that they can use for weatherization and energy conservation and the City of Omaha wants MUD to be the bill collector, if you will, for that program because they are already set up for it. The sooner we can get this law passed, if it is indeed your pleasure, the sooner we can put this weatherization program into effect. I don't know if that there was any controversy at all. There was nobody that spoke against the bill. I haven't had anybody come to me and say there is anything wrong with it, pros and cons, so I would urge that it be advanced.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, maybe just a question of Senator Hannibal. How does this fit in with the weatherization program we now have in force?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal.

SENATOR KAHLE: Is it part of it or is it different?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: It would be part of it in that for areas dealing with the ratepayers of the City of Omaha you could allow for the grants to be collected back through the bill collecting processes already in place with the Metropolitan Utilities District. Presently for example, the People's Natural Gas can participate in these programs because they are not a publicly owned utility. This would allow Metropolitan Utilities District to perform in the same manner as People's does for example.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well I guess I wonder how it would affect outstate Nebraska because we do that through the Community Action Program and some of the other programs that we have and it is doled out by them. I guess I just can't understand how it would work in Omaha one way and outstate another. Have you thought about that or is it possible?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: The weatherization program or the Energy Conservation Program is not the issue here. That will remain unchanged. The only issue here is to authorize Metropolitan Utilities District to enter into agreements